



WOODPLUMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 19th Oct 2020 by ZOOM

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr M Greaves

Councillors: B Dalglish M Entwistle P Entwistle
 B Probin M Stewart G Walker S Yates

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION, SOUND CHECK AND VOTING INFORMATION

The Chairman 'hosted' the meeting and ensured that everyone could be seen and heard. It was confirmed that voting would be by show of hands, however as Cllr Dalglish could not establish a visual connection, efforts were made to ensure he engaged verbally.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence however, Cllr Walker stated that he would need to leave during the course of the meeting. The Clerk confirmed this would be recorded in the Minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting held on 21st Sept 2020.

MIN 20/65 It was **resolved** that the September Minutes were a true record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with legislation, the electronic link to the meeting was published on the Agenda but no members of the public attended. Representatives from Taylor Wimpey / Bloor Homes were invited to attend to discuss their proposals for 500 homes and a secondary school at Sandy Lane, however, they requested a private meeting and as the consultation is intended to be public, the request to meet in private was declined.

POLICE PRESENCE IN THE PARISH

Following an email exchange with the local police, it has come to light that there is only 1 PCSO covering the Parish. Members felt this was unacceptable as the area is growing rapidly and social media reports indicate there has been a rise in opportunist thefts. It is unclear if these have been reported to the Police as we have not received any recent crime reports.

MIN 20/66 It was **resolved** that the Clerk send a strong letter to the Chief Constable stating the level of cover is unacceptable. At the same time the Clerk was requested to request the crime reports and establish if the local police are using Broughton Station to access the area.

A) UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING

Following delays with the traffic calming scheme, Members highlighted 4 actions that could be addressed by LCC Officers which would enable the works to start as soon as the 'Covid related staffing issues' have been resolved. In addition, Members requested that Whittle Hill be temporarily closed as it is dangerous for residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

Members noted that Cllr Iddon has replied by stating *that the traffic calming scheme remains part of their current work programme and officers have been asked to determine a provisional timetable to address the points raised and provide an indication of when they will be in a position to commence the works.* With regards to Whittle Hill, the letter confirms that the road cannot be closed without a turning circle.

Members stated that they are not satisfied with the response particularly as work is continuing on the PWDR which is funded through City Deal – yet the work in Woodplumpton which will be funded through Developers infrastructure contributions is being put on hold.

In addition, Members stated that safety across the Parish is being compromised. Members referred to unlit lamps on traffic lights, no maintenance or repairs to the chicanes in Woodplumpton which have no warning signs or reflectors to advise motorists and no repairs to the bridge on Eaves Lane which was reported on the 3rd October – yet 4 LCC staff and 2 vans were sent to weed a footpath on an infrequently used motorway bridge on a Sunday.

MIN 20/67 Members **resolved** that the Clerk respond to Cllr Iddon's letter by requesting white lines on Whittle Hill as soon as possible as proposed under MIN 20/50. In addition, the Clerk was requested to write to the Chief Executive and Cllr Iddon (with a copy to the Evening Post) to express concern that safety is being compromised.

AMBROSE HALL FARM

Further to MIN 20/51, the Clerk forwarded the odour reports to the Environment Agency along with details of the monitoring equipment and requested their advice on when the equipment should be installed. Members noted the reply implies that whilst the equipment can be used, as the permit condition states odours *as perceived by an authorised officer of the Agency* it is unlikely that the permit will be reviewed based on the reports generated by the monitoring equipment. The reply also states that the farm was visited on the 28th Sept and as odour was noted, the farm manager was asked to look at further measures to control the odour. A face to face meeting is also being arranged with Mr Leeming and senior officers of the EA.

Members felt that as one of the monitoring companies is the European leader in odour assessment and its reports are admissible in court, it is not acceptable that the EA relies solely on an assessment by an officer who is not experiencing the problem on a daily basis. It was also stated that although the site has a permit, it can be investigated by Environmental Health officers if enough residents report that it is affecting their health due to a reluctance to open windows or venture outside.

MIN 20/68 Members **resolved** that the Clerk lodge an official complaint with the Environment Agency so that the complaint can be taken in to account when the face to face meeting takes place. Members also requested that the EA be asked to provide more information regarding the actions already taken by Mr Leeming and provide details of the 'further measures' suggested at the visit on the 28th Sept. The Clerk was also requested to contact Environmental Health Officers for their advice and support.

STOCKS AND MOUNTING BLOCK

Members acknowledged that some of the actions identified under MIN 20/52 had not been completed and it was stated that a meeting with another stone mason had been scheduled. Members agreed that the mounting block should not be free standing and the decorative bollards protecting the assets should not be an obstacle for wedding and funeral cars.

MIN 20/69 it was **resolved** that the actions itemised in the September Minutes should be carried forward to the November meeting.

PARISH INFORMATION BOARDS

It was confirmed that the Catforth order is being processed and LCC are working on the licence to display it in the lay-by. Woodplumpton Councillors confirmed they are progressing the board for Woodplumpton and the details will be emailed once completed.

Councillor G Walker left the meeting at this point.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Due to the time constraints of a remote meeting, the Clerk is dealing with routine planning matters under delegated authority in accordance with Standing Order 2020 (15 xiv).

MIN 20/70 Members **resolved** to approve the representations for September.

Members were informed that an outline application **06/2020/0966** has been received for the erection of a local centre including flexible floorspace (Use Class E), drinking establishments (sui generis) hot food takeaways (sui generis), medical centre (Class E(e), public house (sui generis) with hotel accommodation (Class C1), and retirement apartments (Class C2) with all matters reserved on land to the west of Sandy Lane.

As the above is not a 'routine application', Members were requested to consider the application which is on the left-hand side of Sandy Lane as you approach from Cottam Post Office. The site already has full planning permission for 213 dwellings. The proposal would mean that community amenities will be built **instead** of 72 dwellings. Access would be taken from the East-West link road with pedestrian access only from Sandy Lane. The buildings would range from single storey to 3 storey with the exact detail to be confirmed should the outline application be approved. The application has been submitted with a Parking and Access arrangement plan which states the number of parking spaces comply with the Adopted Local Plan – but it must be said that the spaces seem very few in number for the facilities proposed.

Members noted that 141 houses are still proposed in phase 2 - north west of Ashbridge nursery and the East-West link road – however, as these have not yet been built - new residents moving in will be aware that the homes will be adjacent to the proposed community facilities.

In principle, Members had no objection to the construction of the retirement homes, medical centre and Class E units – based on the Sept 2020 Use Classes amendment - however Members opposed the drive through and family pub - with 180 covers and 46 bedroomed living accommodation above - on the grounds that the applicant has not demonstrated that there is a need for these facilities without detracting from existing and newly established businesses. Furthermore, the site remains part of a wider housing development and the hotel business would be open at unsocial hours and could cause an increase in traffic, noise and disturbance as guests approach or leave the wider residential area. With regards to the hot food takeaway, consideration must be given to Policy WB3 of the Local Plan due to the proposed secondary school across the road. **MIN 20/71** Members **resolved** to object to the drive through and hotel aspects of the application.

Members were also requested to consider a consultation from Bloor Homes & Taylor Wimpey for 500 houses and a secondary school on the right-hand side of Sandy Lane. Whilst the site is in the NW Preston strategic location, the indicative masterplan shows that community facilities should be located in this area as Sandy Lane forms a main junction with the E-W link road. It is acknowledged that the community facilities could be built elsewhere, however the approval of housing on a site allocated for community use is premature until another location has been confirmed. It is noted that land is also allocated for a secondary school but the access is shown off Tabley Lane which is contrary to the NW Preston Masterplan and condition 22 of the PWDR consent which includes a gateway feature to discourage traffic from using Tabley Lane. **MIN 20/72** Members **resolved** to advise Bloor Homes & Taylor Wimpey of the above comments in the hope the scheme will be withdrawn.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Members are requested to note the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan has commenced. No comments have been received to date; however, a resident has requested that the Newsletter is emailed to everyone instead of printing it. The Clerk has explained that residents often state they do not have an email facility and it is impractical to cross reference email and postal addresses or omit specific, individual houses when delivering the Newsletter to a whole street. Members considered the points and agreed that as the format needs to be accessible to all, a hard copy is preferred. Members also noted that the Newsletter is only printed 4 times a year and the printers are members of a carbon balanced scheme which makes a contribution to the Woodlands Trust. **MIN 20/73** Members **resolved** to leave the arrangements as they are.

WOODPLUMPTON COMMUNITY FETE

Following the cancellation of the September fete, Members agreed to consider if an event could be held in December but the Covid situation has not changed. **MIN 20/74** Members **resolved** to reconsider the matter again in November when the Carol services will be considered although it was noted that the Catforth event is less likely to go ahead as it is in the Village Hall.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Members confirmed that the accounts and bank statements had been emailed and reconciled and noted that the Clerk is still trying to progress the switching of the bank account.

BRITISH LEGION

MIN 20/75 Members **resolved** to approve the purchase of 2 poppy wreaths under S137 of the LGA 1972 at a cost of £44.00 which will be paid by cheque 1298. Whilst the parades have been cancelled, the wreaths will be laid as usual.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 20/76 Members **resolved** to approve the following invoice already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2020 15 (xii)

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REF
Parish Lengthsman wks 25 – 28	B Hill	£750.00	52

MIN 20/76 Members **resolved** to approve the following invoices and expenses which included a penalty charge for accessing a bus lane whilst trying to deliver the Newsletter to the Post Office.

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
NHP Consultation hard copies	Preston City Council	£229.96
Brown A4 envelopes for NHP	Mrs J Buttle	5.12
Printing of 8 page newsletter	PCC	£340.00
Delivery of Newsletter	JPP Media	£85.00
500 C5 Envelopes for Newsletter	Viking	20.38
Stationery poly pockets & black ink half to be refunded by Whittingham	Viking	41.98
Postage of Newsletter 607x.65p	Mrs J Buttle	£394.55
Oct salary	Mrs J Buttle	£1157.13
PAYE	HMRC	£103.54
Employer N Ins	HMRC	£77.21
Half year expenses & bus lane fine	Mrs J Buttle	£67.20

HALF YEARLY BUDGET ANALYSIS Apr 20 – Sept 20

Members considered the expenditure against the budget and noted that the City Council have not issued the invoice for the green space maintenance and there will probably be a surplus in the donations budget. Members also noted that as LCC have not progressed the traffic calming scheme, there are excess CIL funds in the Bank Account. **MIN 20/77** Members **resolved** that a virement was not required at this stage and the CIL funds will be reassessed in November after the next CIL payment has been received. The Clerk was requested to ask the City Council if they were any closer to producing a spreadsheet to show a prediction of future CIL payments.

CONSIDERATION OF 2021/22 BUDGET ITEMS

The November meeting will primarily focus on the 2021/22 budget. The Clerk explained that a resident has submitted a request that the Council employs a contractor to prune the hedges and clear the undergrowth with the intention of widening the pavements. As the responsibility usually lies with the landowners and LCC, the Clerk will need to check if the task can be devolved to the Parish Council. In addition, the cost of procuring a contractor to do the work will need to be researched. Members stated that they will identify the hedges most in need of pruning so that the extent of the problem and the number of hours can be identified.

MIN 20/78 It was **resolved** that Members will consider the feedback at the November meeting with a view to determining if the amount should be added to the budget.

FLOODING ON GUILD WHEEL – Blundell Brook

LCC have advised that a bridge over Blundell Brook which is part of the Guild Wheel often floods when the brook is at its full height. LCC have stated that they need to add a boardwalk over part of the width so that pedestrians can cross where it is dry. They were hoping to do it before winter but have a shortfall of around £50 - £75,000 and it was questioned if CIL monies could be used.

MIN 20/79 As the bridge is part of the Guild Wheel, Members felt that the maintenance should have been included in LCC's budget and as we do not have a current prediction for future CIL amounts, regrettably Members **resolved** not to finance the improvement.

COMMUNICATION SINCE THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Members noted that a presentation was given to the Preston Area Committee regarding the Expanded City Project which is a 3-year programme of artworks and events to generate debate about City Deal. Slides from the presentation will be circulated to Members.

It has been established that the City Council is dealing with enforcement cases on a case by case basis due to Covid and staff related issues. Cllr Whittam has offered to look into any delays.

It was also stated that the ENV Agency are going to inspect a leaking septic tank at Lewth Lane.

The bridge at Cinder Lane has been hit by a vehicle again. LCC stated that it has been coned off but as it still looks dangerous, the Clerk will check when it will be repaired.

LCC have contacted Woodplumpton School requesting a Travel Plan following a complaint about traffic outside the school referred to them by a Councillor. Members expressed concern that the Councillor did not refer the matter to the Parish Council first. The Clerk was requested to establish more details and contact the Headteacher to apologise for the extra work caused.

Members noted the Clerk will be taking a week's break over half term.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 16th Nov 2020 at 7.00pm.